information asked for is awaited from the State Government which will be placed on the Table of the House on its receipt.

Social Assistance Schemes

440. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons have begun to take the actual benefit in Maharashtra and Punjab under the various schemes under the Social Assistance Package like Old Age Pensions, Survivors Benefits etc. up till now; and

(b) the steps being taken to see that the scheme is implemented efficiently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) The number of persons who have derived benefit is at statement *(See* below).

(b) The funds under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) have been released directly to the districts for speedy implementation of the programme. An Advisory Committee at the National level and Committees at the state and district levels have been constituted to ensure the effective implementation of the NSAP. The State Governments have been instructed to ensure that application forms are widely available in local languages; verification of applications is prompt and strict; sanctions are expeditious; delays and malpractices are eliminated in disbursement. The panchayats and municipalities have been made responsible for disseminating information about NSAP and to obtain and forward applications with appropriate recommendation to the sanctioning authorities. They have also been entrusted with the task of monitoring and following up delays in sanctions and disbursements.

Statement

Progress report under NSAP

(Rs. in lakhs)

	National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)		National Family Benefit Schemes (NFBS)		National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS)	
States	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
Punjab	14377	48.405	152	8.3	426	1.669

Maharashtra has reported that they have completed all the administrative arrangements and the actual disbursements would commence any time now.

Irregularities in animal husbandry departments

441. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing irregularities in the animal husbandry departments in every state particularly in the implementation of the Centrally-sponsored schemes;

(b) if so, the reports received from different States in the matter;